February 1, 2025

Moral Turpitude

Moral turpitude is a legal concept that refers to an act or behavior that gravely violates the accepted standards of the community. This term is significant in various areas of law, particularly in the United States, where it has implications for immigration, professional licensing, and witness credibility. For instance, a crime classified as involving moral turpitude can affect a person's admissibility to the U.S. and may be grounds for deportation. In professional settings, such as law or teaching, an act of moral turpitude may lead to the revocation of a license or credential. The definition of what constitutes moral turpitude is not fixed and can

vary greatly depending on the context and jurisdiction. Generally, it includes serious offenses like fraud, embezzlement, and crimes of dishonesty or violence. However, the concept extends beyond criminal law and can encompass actions that, while not illegal, are considered unethical or contrary to professional or societal norms.